



Over a dozen of Oji Suzuki's stories, including "The Match," are featured in this collection. The stories are set in a world of war, and the collection is a tribute to the author's work. The stories are set in a world of war, and the collection is a tribute to the author's work. The stories are set in a world of war, and the collection is a tribute to the author's work.

A SINGLE MATCH

OJI SUZUKI













A SINGLE MATCH

COLOR OF RAIN

HIGHWAY TOWN

A SINGLE MATCH

TALE OF REMEMBRANCE

WORLD COLORED PANTS

EVENING PRIMROSE

TOWN OF SONG

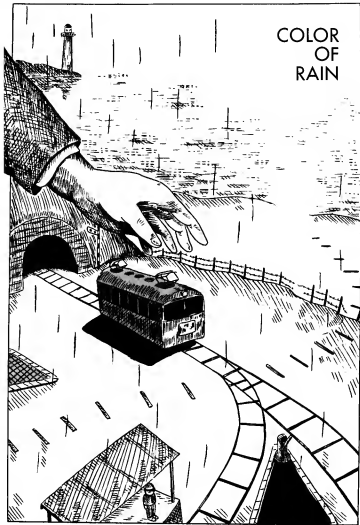
CRYSTAL THOUGHTS

MOUNTAIN TOWN

FRUIT OF THE SEA

CITY OF DREAMS

COLOR OF RAIN



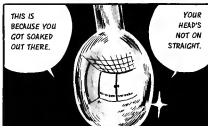




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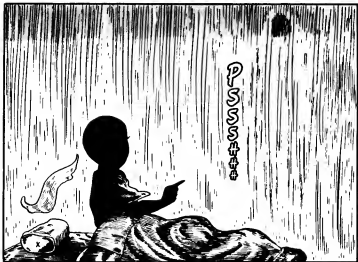
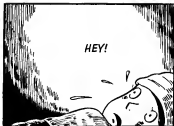




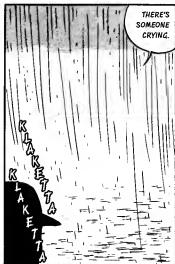


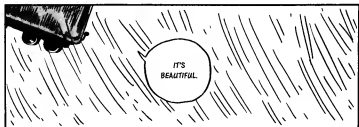
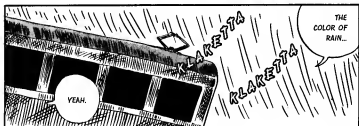
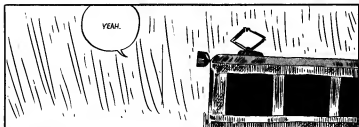
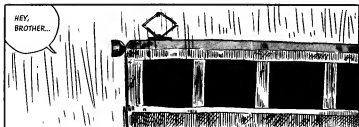






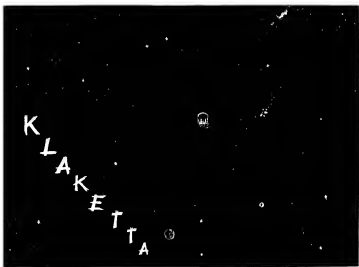




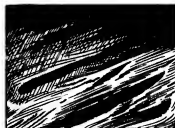






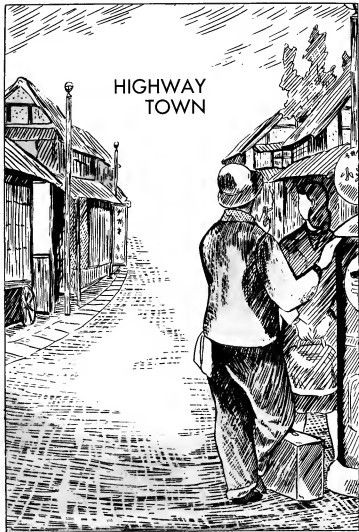








HIGHWAY TOWN





EVERYONE
CALLED KYOKO
A HALFMIT.



"STREET-LAMP
KYOKO"
-THEY
CALLED
HER THAT
SOMETIMES,
TOO.

SIGN: ISHIKAWA DRESSMAKERS

SHE LIVED WITH
AN OLD CAT IN A
SMALL THREE-MAT
ROOM BEHIND
THE SOUTHERN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

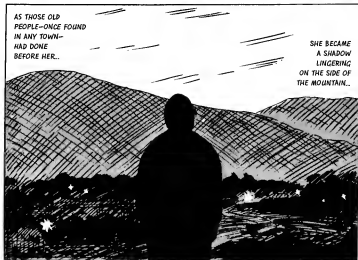


SHE GOT BY
ON THE LITTLE
MONEY SHE
RECEIVED
FROM THE
TOWN
HALL...

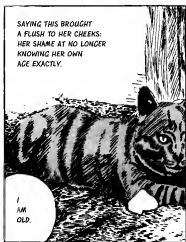


AND ON
LEFTOVER
LUNCHES
FROM THE
SCHOOL
KITCHEN.

AS THOSE OLD
PEOPLE—ONCE FOUND
IN ANY TOWN—
HAD DONE
BEFORE HER...



SHE BECAME
A SHADOW
LINGERING
ON THE SIDE OF
THE MOUNTAIN...

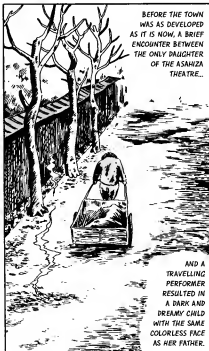


ACCORDING
TO THE
STORY
THAT STILL
LINGERED
IN TOWN...



SIGN (TOP TO BOTTOM): --RI, NAITO SHOES

BEFORE THE TOWN
WAS AS DEVELOPED
AS IT IS NOW, A BRIEF
ENCOUNTER BETWEEN
THE ONLY DAUGHTER
OF THE ASAHIZA
THEATRE...



AND A
TRAVELLING
PERFORMER
RESULTED IN
A DARK AND
DREAMY CHILD
WITH THE SAME
COLORLESS FACE
AS HER FATHER.

FOR ALL THAT,
THEY SAY SHE
WAS QUITE A
CUTE LITTLE GIRL.



DRESSED UP
IN HER DEEP-
RED KIMONO,
SHE REALLY
DID LOOK
BEAUTIFUL.

AT AGE EIGHT, KYOKO'S MOTHER RAN AWAY.
SHE STOOD IN THE ROAD, WAVING
AND CRYING, WHILE
HER MOTHER
DISAPPEARED
OVER THE
MOUNTAINS.



AND
THEN
PEOPLE
DIED.

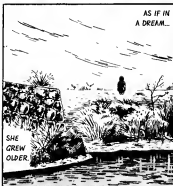


SHE KILLED
HER FIRST
CHILD WHEN
SHE WAS
THIRTEEN
AND FROM
THEN ON...

SHE MADE
MEN SMILE
EACH TIME
SHE
BLINKED.



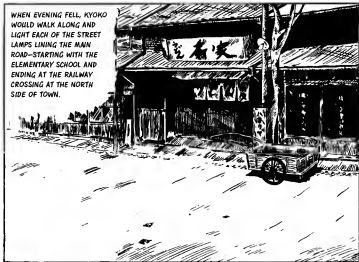
AS IF IN
A DREAM...



SHE
GREW
OLDER.



WHEN EVENING FELL, KYOKO
WOULD WALK ALONG AND
LIGHT EACH OF THE STREET
LAMPS LINING THE MAIN
ROAD—STARTING WITH THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND
ENDING AT THE RAILWAY
CROSSING AT THE NORTH
SIDE OF TOWN.



SO, THE WOMAN
AT THE RICE
STORE DUBBED
HER "STREET-
LAMP KYOKO."



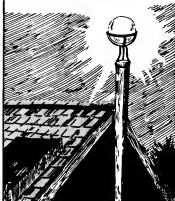
NOW, THIS WAS AGES AGO, WASN'T IT? BUT KYOKO HAD A SPECIAL FRIEND; HE CAME TRUDGING UP THE ROAD TO SEE HER EVERY DAY WHEN HE FINISHED WORK.

高木徳造商店
たけのこ(り)屋

KYOKO WOULD COME OUT TO THE RAILROAD CROSSING TO MEET HIM. SHE WAITED THERE PATIENTLY UNTIL SHE SAW HIM.



SHE WOULD GET RESTLESS WHEN THE SUN STARTED TO SET AND SHE WOULD ARRIVE AT THE CROSSING TOO EARLY. THIS IS NOW SHE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF LIGHTING THE STREET LAMPS WHILE WALKING UP THE STREET.



HE WOULD DOUSE THE LAMPS ON HIS WAY HOME.

JUST THINKING ABOUT MEETING HER FRIEND AT THE CROSSING GAVE HER SUCH PLEASURE.

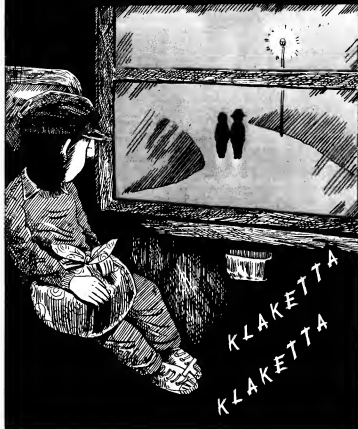


AND THEY WERE SO CLOSE.

I OFTEN USED TO SEE THEM WALKING TOGETHER.

I'M SURE HE WAS A KIND PERSON, A GOOD PERSON.

I'M SURE OF IT.





AT ANY RATE, YOU CAN'T PUT MUCH STOCK IN WHAT THE WOMAN AT THE RICE SHOP SAYS.



BUT...

THIS GOOD PERSON REALLY DID EXIST.



HE WORKED AT A BRICK FACTORY IN A CANAL NEIGHBORHOOD.



HE WAS FAMOUS IN TOWN BECAUSE OF THE ROOSTER IMPRESSION HE PERFORMED AT EACH SINGING CONTEST.

THOSE WERE THE ONLY TIMES WE SAW HIM WITHOUT HIS GLASSES—HIS GOLD TEETH ON DISPLAY.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO



HEY MISTER, DO THE COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!



OK!



COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO



THAT'S ALL!



THE COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO'S
BALLS HANGING HANGING WHEN
HE FEELS HIS CHICKEN



WE MADE
FUN OF
HIM WITH
SONGS
LIKE THIS.

SEE 'IM!
SEE 'IM!

LET'S
BEAT
IT!



OUR MOTHERS
USED TO GET
TOGETHER
AND LAUGH
AT THE
THOUGHT...

OF THE
TWO OF THEM
SLEEPING
TOGETHER.

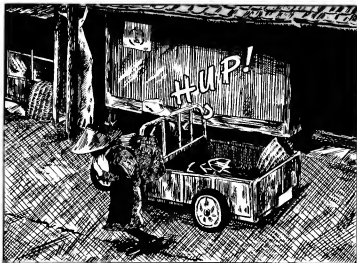


ONE, ONE PERSON,
KYOKO

TWO, TWO PEOPLE,
THEY WANTED TO
GET MARRIED.

THREE, EVERYONE
LAUGHED AT THEM

FOUR, SHE
NEEDN'T HAVE
BOTHERED WITH THE
STREET LAMPS.



HER CHEST,
STOMACH,
AND HIPS—
SHE WANTED
TO FORGET
THEM ALL.

I THINK KYOKO
HAD A REALLY
HARD TIME WITH
HER BODY. HER
ENTIRE BODY
WAS SWOLLEN
AND A DENT
STAYED WHERE
YOU POKED HER.



GOING
AROUND
TO TURN
ON THE
STREET
LAMPS...



SHE WAS
ALREADY STRUGGLING
BY THE TIME SHE GOT TO
THE BAMBOO SHOP.



WHEN
SHE GOT TO
THE OIL SHOP,
SHE WAS SO
MISERABLE
SHE COULD
HAVE DIED.



AND WHEN
SHE MET THE
EYES OF THE
MASTER OF
THE OIL SHOP,
SHE WAS
AFRAID...



BECAUSE...



SHE
HAD
HER
PERIOD.

WHEN WAS IT EXACTLY?

THE NIGHT OF THE
CHINESE LANTERN
FESTIVAL, KYOKO
WAS DRUNK AND
THE MASTER OF THE
OIL SHOP ASSAULTED
HER.

C
A
W
C
A
W
C
A
W

HEH
HEH
HEH

C
A
W

AAA!
IT HURTS!!
IT HURTS!!!

KYOKO HAD
LONG THOUGHT
THE MASTER
OF THE OIL
SHOP WAS A
HANDSOME
MAN. DEEP
DOWN, SHE
WAS HAPPY.
BUT...

WHAT!
YOU STILL
GET YOUR
PERIOD!
AT THIS
AGE!?

WITH THOSE
WORDS,
HE LEFT.

KYOKO WAS SO
ASHAMED, SHE
WANTED TO
DISAPPEAR.

ONE, ONE PERSON,
KYOKO

ONE, ONE PERSON,
KYOKO

TWO, TWO PEOPLE,
THEY WANTED TO
GET MARRIED.

EVERYONE IN
TOWN LAUGHS
WHEN I LIGHT
THE LAMPS.

EVERYONE..
EVERYONE..

THREE, EVERYONE
LAUGHED AT THEM.

FOUR, SHE
NEEDN'T HAVE
BOTHERED WITH THE
STREET LAMPS.

NEVER
MIND.
NEVER
MIND.

FIVE, SIX...

LIGHT THEM UP
AND WALK ON.

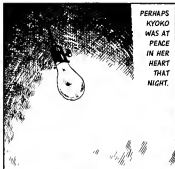
SEVEN...

LONG SLOPES
AND THE SANDAL
STRAP BREAKS.

EIGHT, THE
FAR SIDE OF THE
MOUNTAIN IS
A MONKEY'S BUTT.

NINE, WE
DECIDED TO REST
HERE AND...

AT TEN, WE WERE
OUT OF BREATH
AFTER ALL.



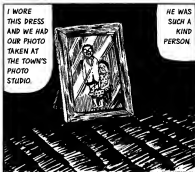
PERHAPS
KYOKO
WAS AT
PEACE
IN HER
HEART
THAT
NIGHT.



THE POLKA
DOT DRESS
HANGING
ON THE
WALL WAS
CERTAINLY
BEAUTIFUL
IN THE
LIGHT OF
THE BULB.



I WAS SO
ASHAMED OF
SUCH A SHOWY
DRESS. HE...HE
SAID IT LOOKED
REALLY GOOD
ON ME.



I WORE
THIS DRESS
AND WE HAD
OUR PHOTO
TAKEN AT
THE TOWN'S
PHOTO
STUDIO.

HE WAS
SUCH A
KIND
PERSON.



I'M A
REAL
IDIOT...
BUT
HIM...

KYOKO
SUDDENLY
REMEM-
BERED.



THAT'S RIGHT.
HE'S COMING
TONIGHT. WHEN
HE COMES LATE
AFTER WORK-
ING OVERTIME,
HE OFTEN
IMITATES A
CRICKET.

AAA, WHAT
SHOULD I
DO, WHAT
SHOULD
I DO? I'M
ASHAMED
OF MY
PERIOD.
WHAT'LL I
DO IF HE
LAUGHS
AT ME?



BUT IT
WASN'T
HER
PERIOD
OOZING
OUT TO
WET HER
KIMONO.



THE WATER
MOVED SO
GENTLY.



SHE KNEW
WELL THAT THE
WATER IN HER
MOVED TO THE
LEFT WHEN SHE
FACED LEFT.

THIS SEEMED
STRANGE TO
KYOKO.



IT WASN'T
HARD.
THE NIGHT
WAS JUST
QUIET
LIKE THIS.



HAVE I
LIVED AS
I SHOULD
HAVE?



THE
CAT'S
THERE

STRANGE...
STRANGE...



STARS
WERE
FALLING
BEFORE
HER EYES.
SO MANY,
SO MANY
RED STARS
WERE
FALLING.



KYOKO
WAS
HAPPY.

YES, THIS
SORT OF
THING
HAPPENED
TO ME
WAY
BACK
WHEN.



DEEPLY
CONTENT,
SHE
CLOSED
HER
EYES.

AND
STILL,
THE
RED
STARS
WERE
FALLING.



SHE
WASN'T
THINKING
ANYTHING
ABOUT
HIM
ANY-
MORE.

WHO
WAS HE
EVEN?



THE
NIGHT
WAS SO
QUIET.



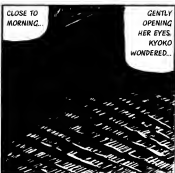
AND THEN,
KYOKO
TOOK ON
HER
SISTER'S
FEATURES...

AND
FELL
ASLEEP.



CLOSE TO
MORNING...

GENTLY
OPENING
HER EYES,
KYOKO
WONDERED...



DID HE
TURN OUT
THE STREET
LAMPS ON
HIS WAY
HERE?

AND
...









A SINGLE MATCH









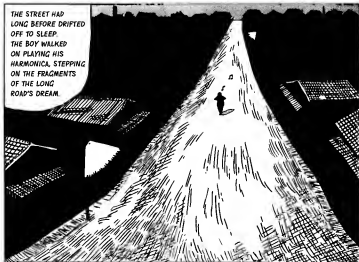
THE STARS
ARE BEAUTIFUL.

LIKE A
YOUNG
DETECTIVE,
THE BOY
LEFT
HOME...

SECRETLY
AND WITH
A SONG IN
HIS HEART.

WILLIAM
WILLIAMS

THE STREET HAD
LONG BEFORE DRIFTED
OFF TO SLEEP.
THE BOY WALKED
ON PLAYING HIS
HARMONICA, STEPPING
ON THE FRAGMENTS
OF THE LONG
ROAD'S DREAM.



AND THE
COLOR, ON
A NIGHT SO
BLUE, MADE
HIM WANT
TO CRY...

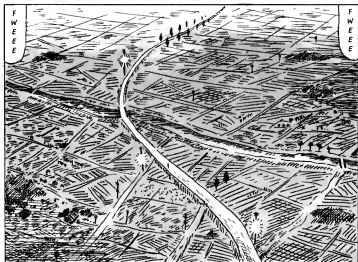
THE
HARMONICA
SANG.





"THAT'S IT. I'LL
VISIT THAT BOY
AND WE'LL PLAY
HARMONICA
TOGETHER!" THE
BOY BEGAN TO
WALK AGAIN

LOOKING
BACK, THE
BOY COULD
SEE THE LIGHT
OF THE MAN'S
CIGARETTE,
A FIERY
SIGNPOST.





THE AIR
LAUGHED;
THE WIND
CIRCLED.



WITH LIGHT
SPILLING
OVER THE
SHADOWS
FADED.



IN THE
CENTER
OF THE
DESOLATE
SUZUKI
PLAIN...

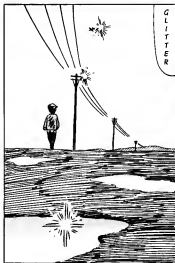
THE BOY
THOUGHT HE
HEARD THE
SOUND OF A
HARMONICA.

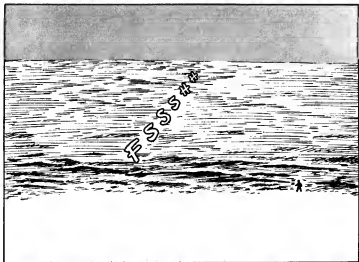




IN EXCHANGE FOR
THE BISCUITS THE
LADY OF THE HOUSE
HAD GIVEN HIM, THE
BOY SECRETLY LEFT
HIS HARMONICA IN
THE MAILBOX.

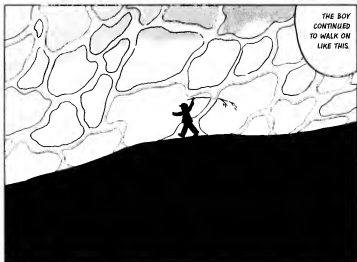
THAT KID CAN
PLAY IT WHEN
HE GROWS UP.
I'LL GET THEM TO
LET ME PLAY A
SILVER FLUTE IN
THE BAND.











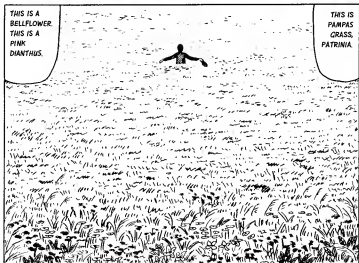
WHAT KIND
OF FLOWER
IS THIS?
WHAT KIND
OF FLOWER
IS THIS?

AND WHAT
KIND OF
FLOWER IS
THIS ONE?

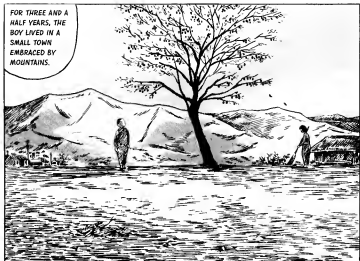


THIS IS A
BELLFLOWER.
THIS IS A
PINK
DIANTHUS.

THIS IS
PAMPAS
GRASS.
PATRINIA.



FOR THREE AND A
HALF YEARS, THE
BOY LIVED IN A
SMALL TOWN
EMBRACED BY
MOUNTAINS.



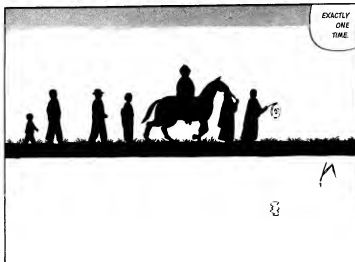
THIS...

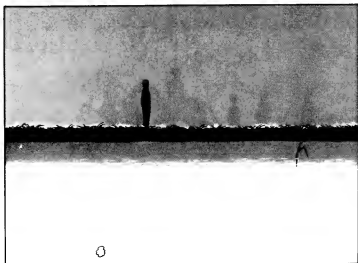
UM...



THIS WAS BECAUSE
HE WAS GREATLY
INTRIGUED BY THE
GIRL'S STRANGELY
FEARFUL WAY OF
STRIKING A MATCH,
EVEN THOUGH HER
FINGERS WERE
SO LONG.







WHAT STAR
IS THAT?
WHAT STAR
IS THAT?

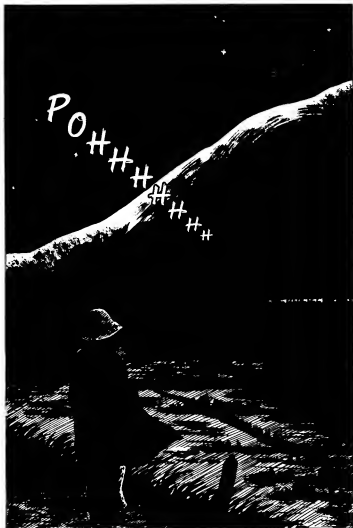
AND
WHAT
STAR IS
THAT?

THAT'S
THAT
ONE.
THAT'S
THAT
ONE

THAT'S
THE
ONE.
THAT'S
THE
ONE



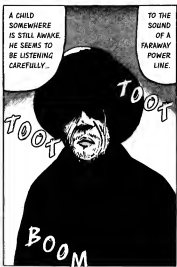












HIS TEARS HAD STOPPED COMPLETELY, COLLECTING ON HIS EYELASHES, BLURRING WHAT WAS IN THE AIR. A FEELING ABOUT AS WARM AS THE MATCH LIT FOR HIM EARLIER...

PIERCED THE BOY'S COLD CHEST AND SPREAD THROUGH HIM.



PSSHH!

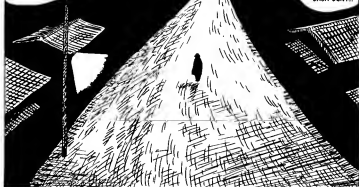


IN AN INSTANT, HE SAW THE FACE FROM EARLIER BEFORE HIS EYES.



AND LONG AGO,
THE BOY PLAYED
HARMONICA, LONG
AGO, HE WALKED
STEADILY,
ENERGETICALLY.

LONG AGO, HE
LOVED THE LONG
FINGERS THAT
STRUCK THE
MATCH. NOW,
THAT BOY,
BACK BENT...



WENT
SLOWLY ON
THE SAME
ROAD THE
SALESMAN
TOOK...

YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.
SLOWLY...



HE
WALKED
ON.







YOU SAY
SOMETHING
JUST NOW,
OLD MAN?

NOT
REALLY



YOU
PROB'LY
TOLD ME TO
STRAIGHTEN
UP.



NAH

DIDN'T
SAY
ANY-
THING.



GETTING
PRETTY
SICK OF
THAT.



NO GOOD
SAYING
STUFF
LIKE
THAT.

THERE'S NO
WAY I'M
GOING TO
STRAIGHTEN
UP.



TALE OF
REMEMBRANCE



LOWELINESS...



WAS IT
FROM
BEHIND?

I SAW IT
ONCE IN A
TOWN IN
ANOTHER
COUNTRY.



WAS THERE A
BLUENESS TO
ITS MOMENTARY
SHADOW?





SHE WAS
A CUTE
GIRL.

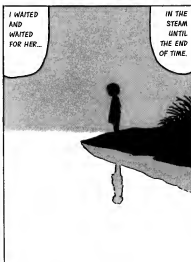
SHE WAS
A KIND
GIRL.



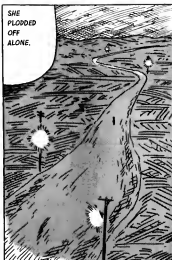
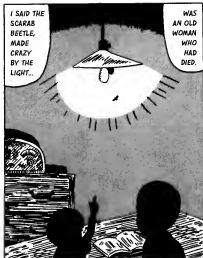
AFTER
WE MET
IN THE
DREAM
TOWN...



I WAITED
AND
WAITED
FOR HER...



IN THE
STEAM
UNTIL
THE END
OF TIME.



SHE WAS A
STRANGE
CHILD...

HER FACE
IN PROFILE,
BROODING.



HER
QUIVERING
EYELASHES...

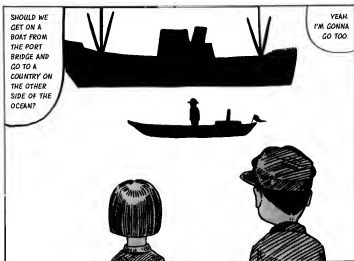
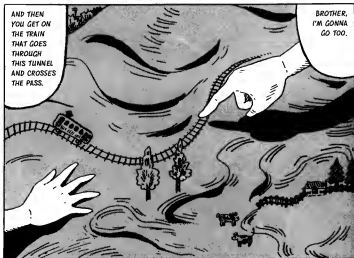
WHAT
WAS IT
ABOUT
HER?



THE FUTON
BECAME AN
UNKNOWN
TOWN.

WE ALWAYS
PLAYED
TOGETHER.
JUST THE
TWO OF
US.





AND WHEN
WE GET
TIRED FROM
THE TRIP,
THE TWO
OF US...

WE FALL
ASLEEP
HOLDING
HANDS.



ELECTRICITY
FLOWS
FROM
OUR
HANDS...

BECAUSE
WE PLAY
TOGETHER
IN OUR
DREAMS









AAR, WHEN
WAS THAT?
NOT KNOWING
WHAT TO DO...

ONLY, ONLY
DIMLY, I
JUST HELD
HER WITH
ALL MY
MIGHT.



AAH, IF HER
SADNESS
WOULD
DISAPPEAR, IF
WE COULD
JUST GO ON
LIKE THIS..

I WOULDN'T CARE
HOW HARD IT GOT
FOR ME. AAAA! IF
THIS NIGHT COULD
GO ON FOREVER,
TO THE END
OF TIME

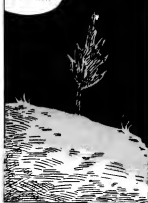


THINKING
IN MY
CHILD'S
HEART..

ON THAT
SOUNDLESS
NIGHT..

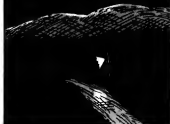


THE
SENSELESSNESS
OF MY HEART
BEATING
NERVOUSLY.



BEFORE
I KNEW
IT, WE
FELL
ASLEEP...

EACH OF
US HOLDING
THE OTHER.
FACES WET
WITH TEARS.



WHAT IS THIS
TREMBLING
HEART?

AAH, WHAT
EXACTLY
IS THE
TREMBLING
OF THE
HUMAN
HEART?



YES, YES,
THAT'S
ENOUGH.

SAY...



ISN'T
IT A
QUIET
NIGHT?





THAT
WAS...

ONE
EARLY
SPRING
EVENING.



I WENT HOME
THROUGH A
SEA OF RAPE
BLOSSOMS...

SINGING
THE SONG
I HAD
JUST
LEARNED.

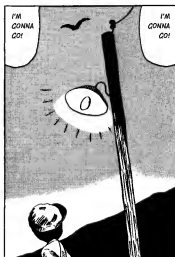


FOR SOME
REASON,
MY CHEST
TIGHTENED...

0

AT THE
THOUGHT
OF HOW
THOSE
YELLOW
FLOWERS
SMELLED.







RIGHT! I RAN
IN SPITE OF
MYSELF, SO
STRONG WAS
MY FEAR AT
THE SENSE OF
FOREBODING.



I RAN
IN A
DAZE.



I RAN
WANTING
TO CRY.



DON'T CRY
DON'T CRY
DON'T CRY

DONTCRY
DONTCRY
DONTORY

SIGN: CLOCKS





LIKE SOME
OTHER
TIME...
STRAIGHT
DOWN
THIS
ROAD.

THIS TIME,
A PERSON
FROM MY
PAST
TAKES
ME...



THAT
GIRL IS
GONE.

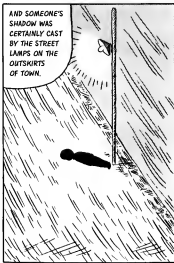


SAY...

THE BLACK
THINGS IN
THE SKY
SEEM LIKE
A DREAM.



AND SOMEONE'S
SHADOW WAS
CERTAINLY CAST
BY THE STREET
LAMPS ON THE
OUTSKIRTS
OF TOWN.



IN MY HEART,
THE LANDSCAPE
IS MISTY!
THERE'S EVEN
A FLUTE
PLAYING
WARMLY,
DEARLY.

IT WAS
THAT KIND
OF SUNSET.



THE
END

THERE
IS ONLY
THIS.



THAT'S
THE
WHOLE
OF MY
MEMORY.

YES,
YES...



I WILL
HAVE
ALL
OF IT.



AAAH..
ISN'T IT
A QUIET
NIGHT?

SOMEHOW, I..

MY LONG, LONG
LONELINESS..

WAS SO
THAT I COULD
TELL YOU MY
MEMORIES..

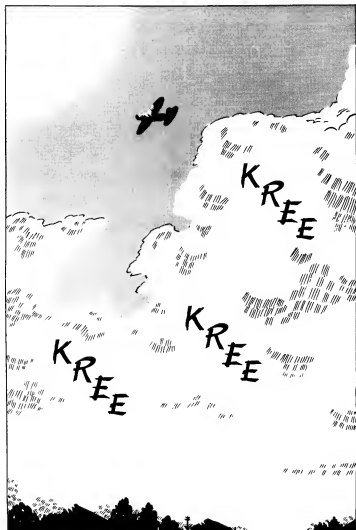
LIKE THIS
TONIGHT..

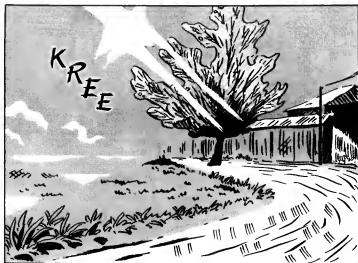
AND NOT
HELP BUT
FEEL LIKE
THEY'RE
REAL





WORLD
COLORED
PANTS







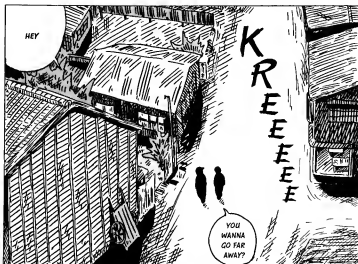


SIGN: ICE

SIGN (LEFT): BIG WINNER INSIDE; (RIGHT, FRONT): 35 YEN







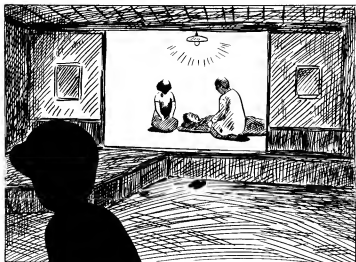












KOJI

WHAT?



YOU
KNOW
IT?

WHAT'S
"IT"?

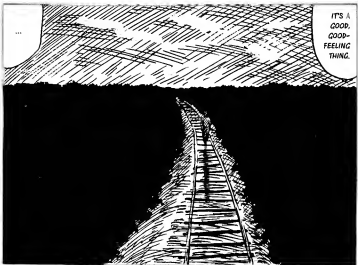


IT DIDN'T
EVEN FEEL
A LITTLE
GOOD.

SO WHAT?



IT'S A
GOOD,
GOOD-
FEELING
THING.



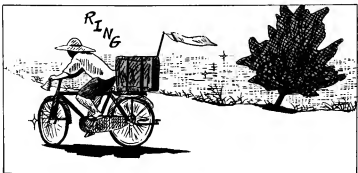
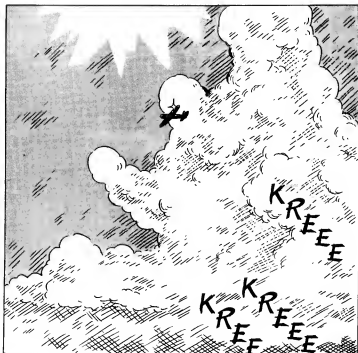


POSTER: HELL; NOW PLAYING





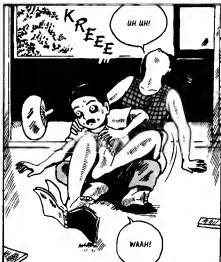




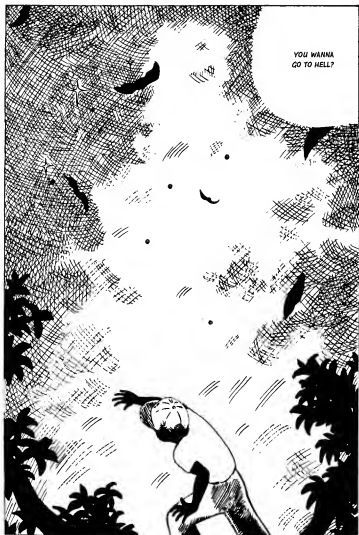






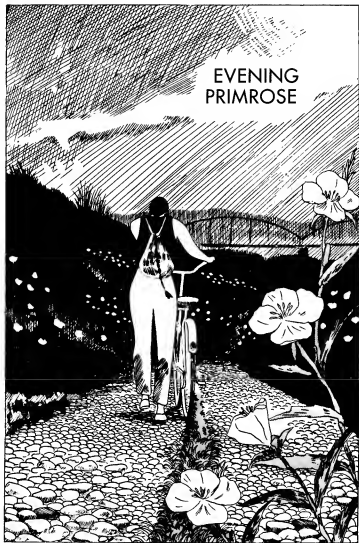






YOU WANNA
GO TO HELL?

Evening
Primrose





BUILDING: ARESU MACHINING











DO YOU
REMEM-
BER?

THE
ANTENNA
FACTORY'S
STEEL
TOWER

THE
BANK OF
THE TAMA
RIVER



WE BORROWED
MONEY AND
PLODDED OFF,
THE SILHOUETTE
OF THE TWO
OF US ON
THE GROUND.

DO YOU
REMEM-
BER?



EVERYTHING...
YES, EVERY-
THING.

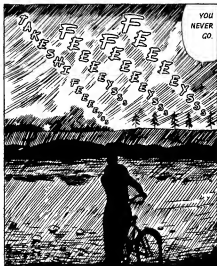
DING DING



ALL THESE
MEMORIES
SWIRLING
IN MY
HEART.

DING
DING





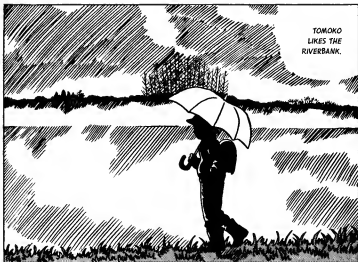




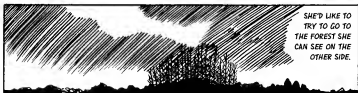








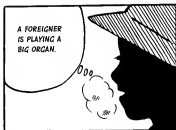
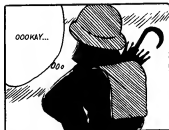
TOMOKO
LIKES THE
RIVERBANK.



SHE'D LIKE TO
TRY TO GO TO
THE FOREST SHE
CAN SEE ON THE
OTHER SIDE.



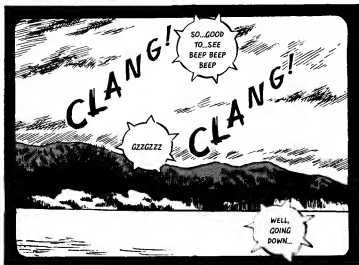
BUT TOMOKO...
THE RAIN'S STOPPED,
YOU KNOW.







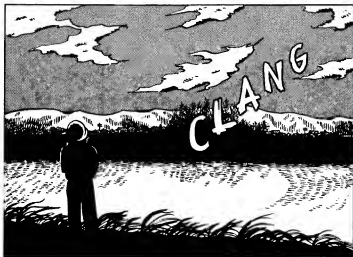
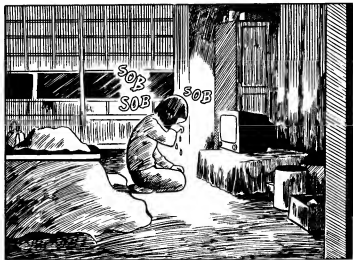


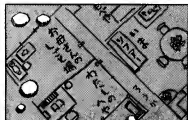




SIGNS: DANGER







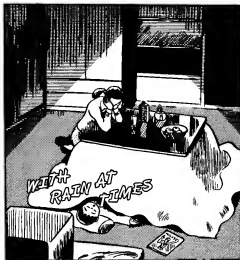
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MOMI'S WORK; TATSUO'S ROOM; TV; LIVING ROOM; SOFA; HALLWAY; MY ROOM





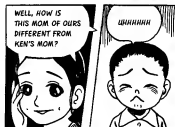












THAT'S RIGHT. HE
DOESN'T ACT LIKE
A BRAT OR PEE
THE BED.

YUP!

BECAUSE
ULTRAMAN
IS STRONG!



TOMOKO,
ARE YOU IN THE
TV? ARE ULTRA-
MAN AND THE
MONSTERS
THERE?

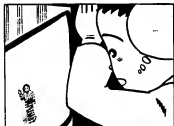
THEY'RE HERE.
WE'RE ALL HERE
WATCHING YOU. IF
YOU CRY, THEY'LL
LAUGH AT YOU.

WOW
WOW
WOW

AND IF YOU
HELP MOM AND
BE GOOD, YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO
COME HERE!

WOAH
WOAH
WOAH









CRYSTAL THOUGHTS

I WANTED
A SET OF
CRYSTALS.



I FELT LIKE
IF I PUT THE
HEADPHONES
ON, I WOULD
BE ABLE TO
HEAR THE
SECRETS OF
FARAWAY
TOWNS...



SO...

K
E
E



THE TIME I
WENT WITH MY
FATHER TO NAGOYA,
THE TWO OF US
LOOKED SHABBY
AMIDST THE
CROWD.



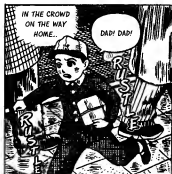
K
E
E

I USED
A DIRTY
TRICK.





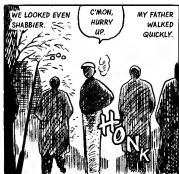




IN THE CROWD
ON THE WAY
HOME...

DAD! DAD!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

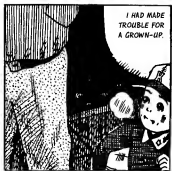


WE LOOKED EVEN
SHABBIER.

C'MON,
HURRY
UP.

MY FATHER
WALKED
QUICKLY.

HONK



I HAD MADE
TROUBLE FOR
A GROWN-UP.



AND EVEN WHEN
WINTER REALLY
ARRIVED...THE
RADIO DIDN'T
LET ME HEAR
EVEN ONE
OF THOSE
SECRETS.

LET'S
TRADE!
I'LL EVEN
THROW IN
FIFTY YEN.

WOW,
FIFTY?
THAT'S
GREAT!

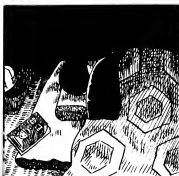


DAD, LOOK,
A BIG
BALLOON.

STAY
UP
THERE!

VRROOM
VRROOM





MOUNTAIN TOWN





SIGN (LEFT TO RIGHT): KAMEYA, SWEETS







SIGN: CIGARETTES

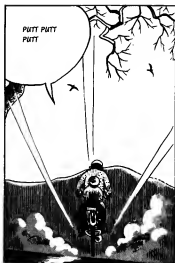




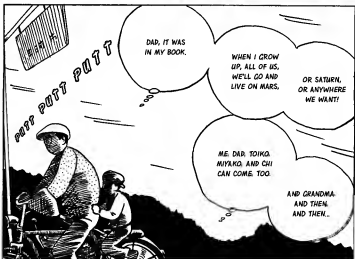
THE WIND'S
PRETTY COLD,
HUH?



IT'S LIKE A
ROCKET!



PUTT PUTT
PUTT



DAD, IT WAS
IN MY BOOK.

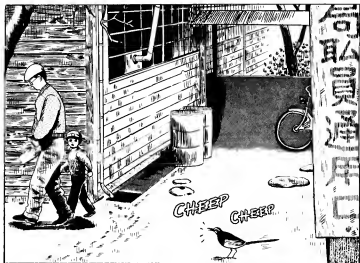
WHEN I GROW
UP, ALL OF US,
WE'LL GO AND
LIVE ON MARS,

OR SATURN,
OR ANYWHERE
WE WANT!

ME, DAD, TOIKO,
MIYAKO, AND CHI
CAN COME, TOO.

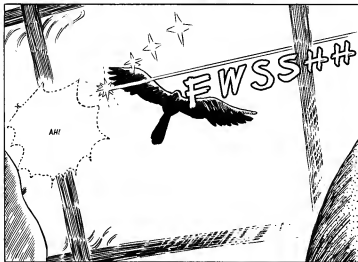
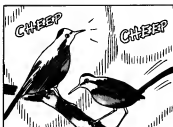
AND GRANDMA
AND THEN,
AND THEN...





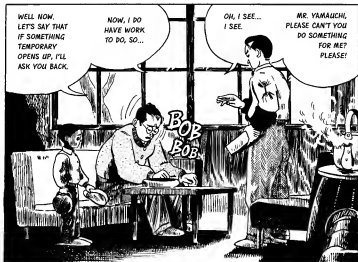
SIGN: OFFICE SERVICE ENTRANCE





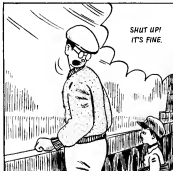








SIGN: JAPAN TRANSPORT





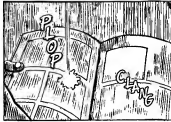


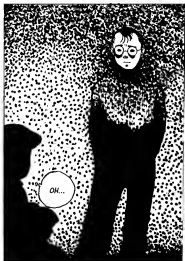


SIGN: HIBARI HALL

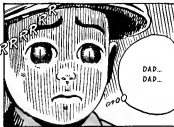
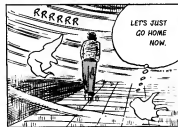
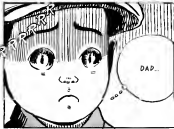


SIGN: HIBARI HA--

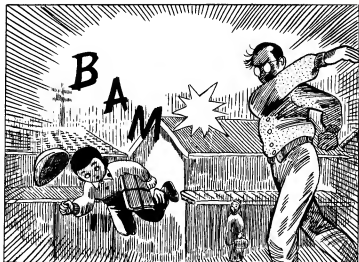


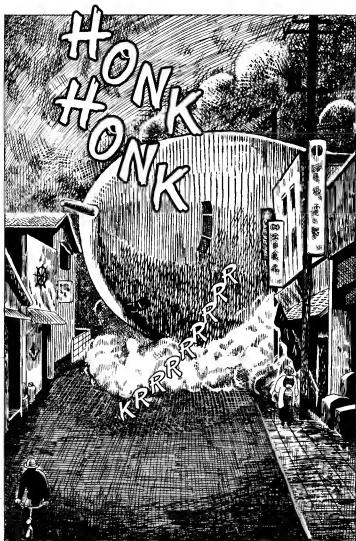




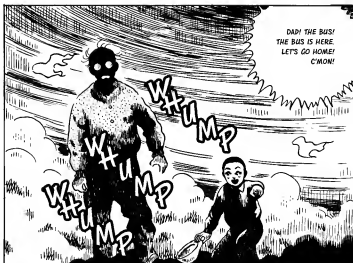








SIGNS (LEFT TO RIGHT). COFFEE, ZENNIKI FOODS, AICHI ELECTRIC



DAD! THE BUS!
THE BUS IS HERE!
LET'S GO HOME!
C'MON!



IF YOU PLEASE,
BOARD THE
BUS, PLEASE.
IT IS HEADED
BACK TO THE
TOWN.

HURRY!
HURRY UP,
DAD!

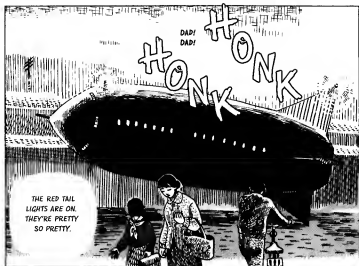


PREPARE FOR
DEPARTURE!



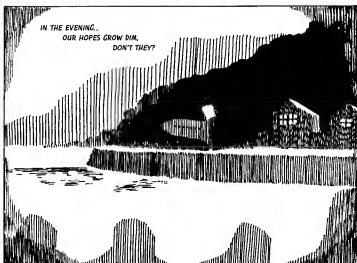
WHEW!

BUS: MUKAWA TRANSIT

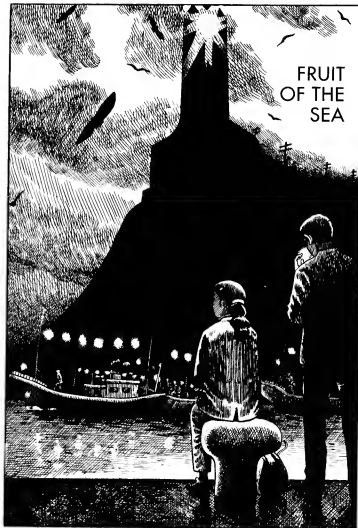


SIGN: NITAN



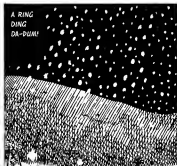


FRUIT
OF THE
SEA



Chapter One

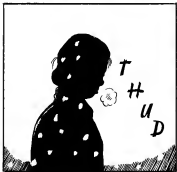
SEA



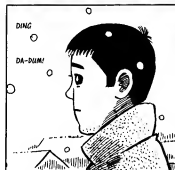


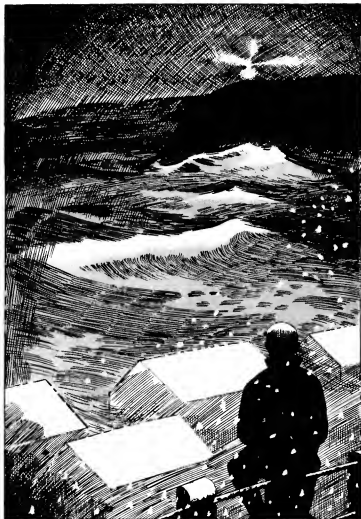


CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: CIGARETTES; RAMEN; RAMEN



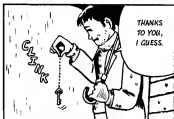




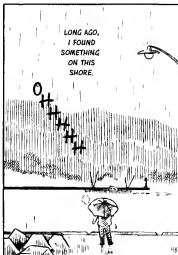


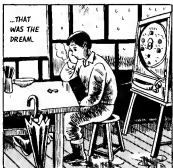
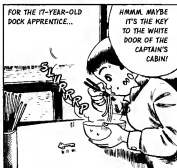
Chapter Two
BREAKWATER





SIGN BELOW: FIXED MENU







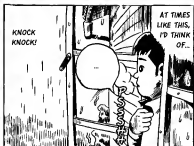
TAMOTSU
YAMADA, 20
YEARS OLD

AFTER THAT,
I LEFT THE
DOCK AND
MOVED AROUND
FROM PLACE
TO PLACE.



WELL, GIVE IT ALL
YOU GOT WHEN
YOU START WORK
TOMORROW.

I WILL.



KNOCK
KNOCK!

AT TIMES
LIKE THIS,
I'D THINK
OF...



ARE
YOU TAMOTSU
YAMADA?

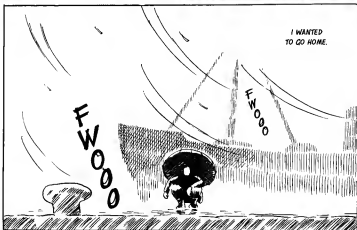
YES.



THE OWNER OF THE
DROPPED KEY
SUDDENLY
CAME BY...

UM...
YOU SEE,
THAT'S MY
PIANO KEY.

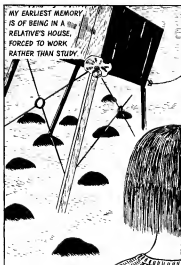


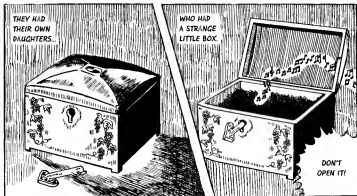












THEY HAD
THEIR OWN
DAUGHTERS...

WHO HAD
A STRANGE
LITTLE BOX.

DON'T
OPEN IT!



IT'S NOT FOR
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU TO
LISTEN TO!

I DIDN'T
KNOW IT
WAS A
MUSIC
BOX.

I LISTENED
TO IT SING
WHEN THEY
WEREN'T
LOOKING.

DON'T LUMP
ME IN WITH A
BEGGAR'S KID!



I WANTED
SO BADLY
TO MAKE IT
MY OWN

ONE DAY, I STOLE
IT AND RAN AWAY
FROM HOME.

THAT WAS
THE DAY I
FINISHED
JUNIOR
HIGH
SCHOOL.



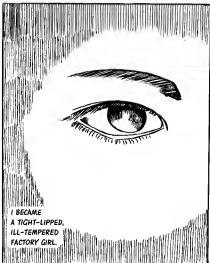
AND THEN
I CAME
TO THIS
TOWN.



AND I GUESS
IT WAS BECAUSE
I WAS ALONE.



I BECAME
A TIGHT-LIPPED,
ILL-TEMPERED
FACTORY GIRL.







SIGN: --MO CO., LTD.

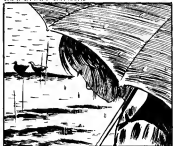


SIGN: --MO CO., LTD.



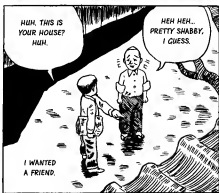


SIGN: SANKYO CHARCOAL

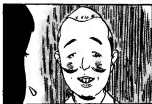




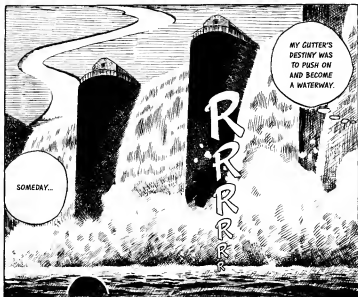


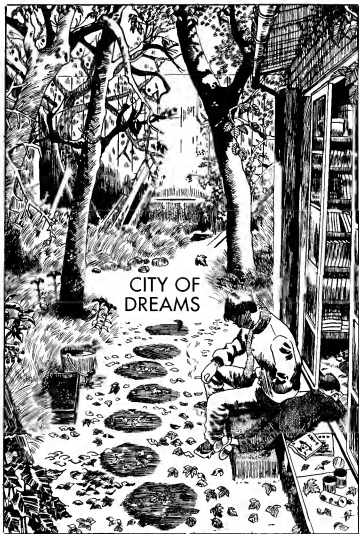






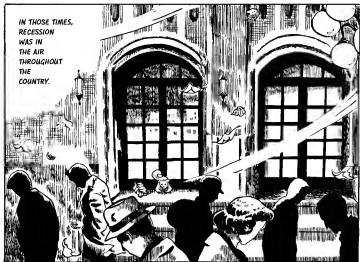








IN THOSE TIMES,
RECESSION
WAS IN
THE AIR
THROUGHOUT
THE
COUNTRY.

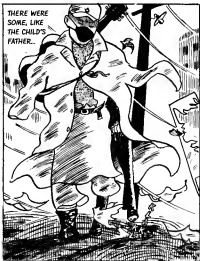


THE FIRE OF WAR
THAT HAD SPREAD
TO THE PENINSULA...

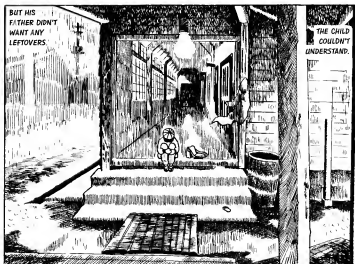


BROUGHT
PROFIT TO
THE COUNTRY,
BUT...

THERE WERE
SOME, LIKE
THE CHILD'S
FATHER...









HE WAS
THAT
KIND OF
CHILD.



HE HAD
ONE
DREAM.



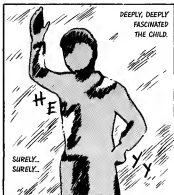
AND FOR THAT
DREAM, THE
CHILD SAVED
HIS POCKET
MONEY FOR
A LONG TIME.

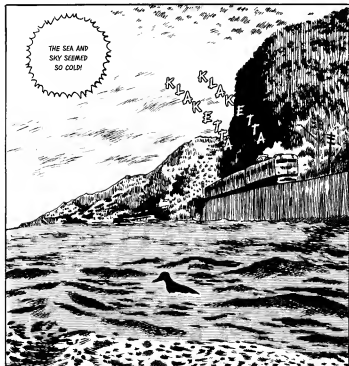


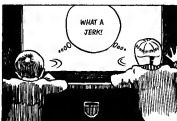
HOW
ARE YOU ALL?

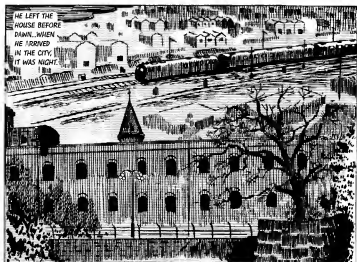
I'M A BOY
WHO LIKES
SCIENCE AND
ADVENTURE
COMICS.

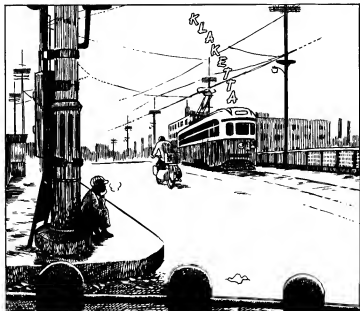
TODAY, MY TOWN'S...







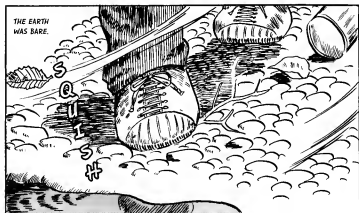








IT WAS
MYSTERIOUS
THERE.

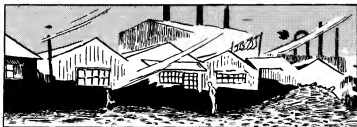


THE EARTH
WAS BARE.



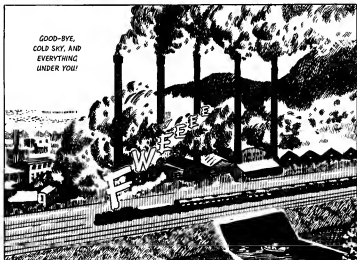
















Oji Suzuki was born in 1949 in Nagoya, Japan. He moved to Tokyo in 1967 and within two years his first short stories were published in the avant-garde Japanese comics magazine *Garō*. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, at least ten collections of his short stories were published. Suzuki has also produced short films and has written and drawn children's books.



